

# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

★ news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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## RECREATION REGULATIONS PROPOSED FOR NATIONAL WILDLIFE AREAS

New recreation regulations, designed to do a better job of taking care of more than 12 million people who annually visit several hundred refuges, hatcheries, and other Federal wildlife conservation areas, have been proposed by the Department of the Interior.

The regulations would permit public recreational use when it is compatible with the primary conservation purpose of an area. Authority to provide recreational facilities was given by Congress in 1962. The Accelerated Public Works program has permitted recreational development on some refuges and hatcheries in distressed areas.

In announcing the proposed regulations, Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall said:

"This represents an important step in the Department's program to assure that Federal lands help provide space and opportunity for the public to enjoy the outdoors."

National fish and wildlife areas offer unusual opportunities for nature study, bird-watching, hiking, fishing, boating, hunting, sightseeing, and photography.

The proposed regulations recognized the need for managing access to refuge and hatchery areas, and cover the use of roads and trails, operation of boats and vehicles, and hunting and fishing by the public. The extent to which various types of outdoor recreation can be enjoyed is defined. Limitations are imposed for the collection of scientific specimens of plant and animal life and for archeological and paleontological studies.

Boat rentals and other such recreational services would be provided by concessionaires, in most cases, under contract with the Federal Government. The charging of fees in keeping with the cost of furnishing such services, plus a fair profit to the concessionaire, would be permitted under the new regulations.

The regulations carry out provisions of a 1962 law that gave outdoor recreation important new recognition in the management of Federal wildlife areas, while protecting fully the prime wildlife conservation goals of the national system. The areas involved are managed by the Fish and Wildlife Service's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

Notice of the proposed regulations has been printed in the Federal Register. Interested persons may submit their written comments regarding the regulations to the Interior Department's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Washington, D. C. 20240.

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